

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 15, 1959

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION CIRCULAR NO. 195

TO: Heads of Federal Agencies

SUBJECT: Telecommunication Services

Review of this document by CIA has determined that

☒ CIA has no objection to declass
☐ It contains information of CIA
interest that must remain
classified at TS S C
Authority: HR 70-2

☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest

1. Purpose. This circular informs Federal agencies of revised General Services Administration program of improved procurement and utilization of communication services by Federal agencies including consolidation of requirements or single-billing procedures

GSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File

2. General. The Transportation and Public Utilities Service of GSA has been reorganized to provide, among other things, the planning, development and coordinating of policies, regulations and guides governing procurement and utilization of communication services on a Government-wide basis. This has been done in the interests of improving agencies' services and promoting greater economy through a Government-wide approach to these problems.

In his Report to the Congress of the United States, November 1959, entitled "Review of Management of Leased Private Lines Telephone Facilities in the Department of Defense and Selected Civil Agencies," the Comptroller General of the United States has pointed out the need for improved management of private lines to provide agency management with better awareness of economical tariff provisions which reduce cost. The Report includes the recommendation that the Administrator of General Services take similar action with respect to the remaining civil agencies, including those now exempt from GSA jurisdiction.

3. Program. GSA has instituted the following programs which are available to all Federal agencies:
 - a. Consulting services with respect to agency technical and rate problems, including the supplying of tariff information and advice.
 - b. Negotiation of rates and contracts for communication services including joint-use or area-wide contracts and long-term contracts for periods not to exceed 10 years.

c. Central ordering and payment facilities, with proration to agencies, where single billing and payment are necessary to achieve maximum savings.

d. Application of AT&T Tariff FCC No. 231, Multiple Private Line Channels. The Comptroller General holds that it is the obligation of AT&T to apply this tariff providing multiple channel discounts whether or not it has been requested by the ordering agency. The Company disagrees with this interpretation. Therefore, to avoid the possibility of unnecessary expenditures by the Government while awaiting authoritative determination of the legal question, GSA will seek to obtain maximum benefits by reordering services where required to obtain the discounts under the Company interpretation. An immediate inventory of all agency private line services will therefore be required. (See paragraph 5, Implementation, below.)

e. Retroactive application of AT&T Tariff FCC No. 231. The Comptroller General's Report includes the following:

Required Action.

Each department and agency of the Government should take prompt action to secure the proper application of Tariff FCC No. 231 to all eligible circuits.

Each department and agency of the Government should make a claim for the amount of overcharge arising from the improper application in the past of Tariff FCC No. 231.

As it may be necessary for a complaint to be filed with the Federal Communications Commission to enforce the repayment of the overcharges mentioned, it is requested that GSA be supplied promptly with a copy of the overcharge statement computed in accordance with the above.

4. Eligibility. All Federal agencies, including those exempt by regulation or statute from GSA requirements or policies, are invited to participate in this program. No action need be taken by agencies to the extent their private line services are now obtained through GSA, as the Public Buildings Service of GSA will make the necessary reports.

5. Implementation. Federal agencies are requested to contact immediately the Transportation and Public Utilities Service of GSA for further information and assistance in participating in this program. This may be done as follows:

General Services Administration
Transportation and Public Utilities Service
Communications Division
General Services Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Telephone: Executive 3-4900 (Government
Dial Code 183), Extension 4336.



FRANKLIN FLOETE
Administrator